

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 canceled.

9. (Currently Amended) A palletizable container for preserving and transporting, in a controlled atmosphere and under a controlled pressure, any produce (~~plant material, cheese, microorganisms, seeds, substrates, etc~~) requiring a particular atmosphere during storage, the container comprising:

~~a first portion that is a bottom element having wall means that is completely impermeable to gas and vapor, and a second portion in the form of~~

~~a member controlling the flow of gas and vapor between the an inside of said container and the an outside, said member being integrated into said wall means, the first portion comprising a rigid bottom element, a side element and a rigid cover element, said elements being capable of being connected together in a sealed manner, and the second portion being integrated into the bottom element,~~

~~wherein the side element is constituted by the peripheral walls of a plurality of rigid, stackable intermediate elements, each intermediate element being in the form of a case having an open upper portion and an openwork bottom, said case being capable of containing loose produce or packed or semi-packed produce, the bottom element, the intermediate elements, and the cover element including connection means for fastening and providing a seal between a lower element and an immediately superior element~~

a plurality of rigid stackable intermediate elements, each having an open upper portion, an openwork bottom, and side peripheral walls completely impermeable to gas and vapor, and each being capable of containing loose, packed or semi-packed produce,

a rigid cover element completely impermeable to gas and vapor,

connection means for fastening the bottom element, the peripheral walls, and the cover element to each other, said connection means being included in the bottom element, in the intermediate elements, and in the cover element,

means for providing a seal between the bottom element, the peripheral walls, and the cover element so that they are connected in a sealed manner.

10. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 9, wherein the connection means comprise a downwardly open groove formed at the periphery of the lower zone of a superior element on a lower circumference of each of the intermediate elements and of the cover element, into which the an upper circumference of the upper zone of the lower element stacked immediately below one of the intermediate elements or the cover element is capable of being inserted.

11. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 10, wherein the groove comprises a seal.

12. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 10, wherein the lower circumference zone of each superior of the intermediate elements and of the cover element also has, around the groove, a rib with a U shaped section and the upper zone circumference of each lower of the intermediate elements or bottom element comprises at its periphery a gutter with a U shaped section to receive the rib of the immediately superior element stacked immediately above one of the intermediate elements or the bottom element.

13. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 12, wherein the gutter or the groove comprises a seal.

14 (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 12, wherein the rib and/or the gutter further includes pins which can snap fasten into corresponding holes provided in the gutter and/or the rib.

15. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 9, wherein each element is generally in the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped.

16. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 9, wherein the elements are made of a plastics material or of a composite material or of any suitable material.

17. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 13, wherein each element is generally in the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped.

18. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 13, wherein the elements are made of a plastic material or of a composite material or of any suitable material.

19. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 13, wherein the rib and/or the gutter further includes pins which can snap fasten into corresponding holes provided in the gutter and/or the rib.